

**COMPUTER READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM WHICH RECORDS
SERVICE-ORIENTED DIT CONSTRUCTION FOR INTERNET
PROTOCOL NETWORK SERVICE MANAGEMENT**

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to a service-oriented DIT (Directory Information Tree) construction, which is used in an IP (Internet Protocol) network service management system and which is recorded on the recording medium in a directory server.

Currently, the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) is vigorously studying policy sub-trees.

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However, the IETF has not discuss relationships between the customer sub-tree and policy sub-tree, specifically, creation of rules based on service entries. Essentially, the customer care system is required to operate networks. Moreover, the customer care server requires a service oriented data structure (corresponding to the customer tree in the present invention).

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Where provisioning (setting to a NE (Network Element, specifically, a router) is intended, the policy sub-tree is needed in consideration of retrieval time, data operation, and so on. However, mapping between sub-trees has not been studied. Similarly, the scheme of reducing the data capacity has not been studied by considering both the policy sub-tree and the customer sub-tree. Various service types or changes of service

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each of the service entries; plural policy rule format entries
dangling below the policy sub-tree; and plural service class
definition entry dangling below the system sub-tree; each of
the plural service entries including as an attribute a condition
parameter which is referred to from each policy rule entry via
each policy rule format entry;

each of the plural service entries including as an attribute
an action parameter which is referred to from each policy rule
entry via each policy rule format entry and via each service
class definition entry.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according
to the present invention, plural service entries further
includes as an attribute a service type specifying a band and
a packet transfer priority, the service type being the name
of a specific one of the service class definition entries.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according
to the present invention, each of plural service entries further
includes as an attribute a rule creation state indicating whether
or not a policy rule entry is created below each service entry
itself.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according
to the present invention, each of plural service entries further
includes as an attribute a provisioning date/unprovisioning
date which controls a policy setting/releasing operation from
a policy management system.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according to the present invention, each of plural service entries further includes as an attribute a network element acquired when a policy rule entry below each service entry is set.

5 Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according to the present invention, each of plural service class definition entries further includes as an attribute a parameter representing a feature of a service corresponding to a service type and a pointer to a policy rule format entry to be applied
10 to the service.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according to the present invention, each of plural policy rule format entries further includes as an attribute a condition parameter and an action parameter, each to be possessed by a policy rule,
15 and a network element to which the policy rule is applied.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according to the present invention, each of plural policy rule entries further includes as an attribute a pointer to a corresponding policy rule format entry, a rule state indicating whether or
20 not the policy rule has been applied to a network element, and a target network element specifying a network element to which the policy rule is applied.

Moreover, in the computer readable recording medium according to the present invention, the IP network service oriented DIT
25 construction sub-tree further has network sub-trees.

An IP network service management system consists of a service oriented DIT construction for an IP service management according to the present invention, a design system (a system for designing a routing table to be stored in a router), a customer care system (a system of supporting a service acceptance to a customer and managing customer information), a policy management system (a system for managing a router according to a policy defined in a customer unit or in a service unit required by a customer), and a directory server (a server for unitarily managing data). Policy related data sets to be used by the policy management system are summarized to the service entry (stored in a directory server and including service information required by a customer) created by the customer care system. The policy related data can be acquired by referring to the service entry. This feature allows the data capacity to be saved. Moreover, the policy rule format entry 14 (Fig. 4) is used to interpret the content of the service entry as a policy rule (defined in a customer unit or service unit and described using condition and action and set to a router). This feature allows the rule to be changed flexibly. Moreover, introducing the service class definition entry 18 (Fig. 3) enables flexibly dealing with a change of service (provided to a customer). That is, when an addition or change of a service type occurs, it is not needed to change the original data (service information accepted from a customer).

This and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent upon a reading of the following detailed description and drawings, in which:

Fig. 2 is a list of attributes included in a service entry
10 according to the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a list of attributes included in a policy rule format entry according to the present invention; and

15 Fig. 5 is a list of attributes included in a policy rule entry
according to the present invention.

Fig. 1 depicts a DIT (Directory Information Tree) construction according to an embodiment of the present invention. The DIT construction is recorded on the recording medium such as a hard disk drive of a directory server, together with data stored in the directory server, and implements the schema definition of these sets of data. The carrier possesses the directory server, together with the system such as a design system and a policy

management system.

The customers sub-tree (customer sub-tree) 11 is a sub-tree including the service entry 15 created according to a customer request when the customer care server accepts a service. For example, the service entry 15 is created by implementing the multilevel branching in a customer unit, VPN (Virtual Private Network) unit, service topology (point-to-point (P2p) unit, point-to-multipoint (p2m) unit, or a multipoint-to-multipoint (m2m)) unit. Numeral 16 represents a policy rule entry. In Fig. 1, "n" represents plural branches and is a notation according to the OMT (Object Modeling Technique). In the explanation of the pointer moving from the policy rule entry 16 to the policy rule format entry 17 and the explanation of the pointer moving from the service class definition entry 18 to the policy rule format entry 17, in Fig. 1, DN is an abbreviation of distinguished name. DN is used to uniquely specify an entry by a schema definition of LDAP (Light-weighted Directory Access Protocol).

The network sub-tree 12 is a sub-tree including a network related entry and is utilized by a network management system different from the IP service management system.

The policies sub-tree (policy sub-tree) 13 is a sub-tree including information (information residing in the entry 17) necessary for a policy management to which a QoS (Quality of Service) or security policy is applied to the IP traffic. In the embodiment, data sets of the policy rule are summed up to

the service entry 15 below the customers sub-tree 11. The policies sub-tree 13 holds the policy rule format entry 17 only.

The system sub-tree 14 is a sub-tree which is neutral to the customers sub-tree 11, the network sub-tree 12, and the policies sub-tree 13. In other words, the system sub-tree is the sub-tree which stores information which cannot be classified into only the customers sub-tree 11, the network sub-tree 12, and the policies sub-tree 13 but are related to all sub-trees. The system sub-tree 14 has the service class definition entry 18 below it.

Fig. 2 is a list showing attributes possessed by the service entry 15. The service type 21 specifies a band and a packet transfer priority. The name of one of plural service class definition entries 18 (Fig. 3) is used as an attribute value (shown with the arrow extending from the service entry 15 to the service class definition entry 18 in Fig. 1). The parameter 22 is the condition parameter having the possibility that it may be used as the condition of the policy entry 16. That is, the condition parameter 22 is referred to according to the type of policy entry, based on the attribute value of the condition parameter 41 existing in the policy rule format 17 (Fig. 4) corresponding to the policy rule entry. When attention is paid to a certain policy rule entry 16 (Fig. 5), the policy rule entry 16 can refer to an attribute within the service entry 15 because it has the attribute "policy rule format". In this

operation, the policy rule entry 16 refers to the policy rule
format 17 corresponding to the policy rule entry 16 distinguished
by referring to the attribute "policy rule format" (as shown
with the arrow extending from the policy rule format 16 to the
policy rule format entry 17) and then refers to the attribute
value of the condition parameter 41 possessed by the policy
rule format 17 is referred. This reference method allows the
data capacity to be saved.

Numeral 23 represents part of the action parameter of a policy
rule. There is as another action parameter PHB (per Hop Behavior)
possessed by the service class definition entry. These
parameters are related to each other as follows:

In the operation procedure, it is assumed that a service entry
is first created and that a policy rule entry is next created
and that the content of the policy rule is finally set to a
router.

First, the service class definition entry is retrieved based
on the service type information held by the service entry. The
service class definition entry has PHB to its service class
and a policy rule format entry. Next, a policy rule entry is
created according to the policy rule format.

The policy rule entry, which has policy rule format information,
can retrieve the action parameter 23 with PHB and Service ID
as an action parameter, based on the service type information
possessed by the policy rule format.

In the above operation, all action parameters can be prepared with data capacity saved and with flexible measures against changes in service class definition.

The ruleCreationsState (rule creation state) 24 is the attribute for representing whether or not the policy rule entry 16 (Fig. 15) that the policy management system uses to set a policy to the router has been created, based on the service entry 15 (Fig. 2). Plural policy rule entries 16 are created in a batch mode to one service entry 15. As to the service entry in which RuleCreationState 24 has a value of "non-creation", the policy management system creates the policy rule entry 16 (Fig. 5) below the service entry 15, based on the service entry 15 (Fig. 2) and the service format entry policy 17 (Fig. 4).

Provisioning date/unprovisioning date 25 controls the policy setting/setting releasing (provisioning/unprovisioning) operation from the policy management system and is associated with services provided to customers. That is, the provisioning date/unprovisioning date 25 is determined and input by the policy determined by a carrier (e.g. to complete the provisioning one day in advance of a service), based on the service period (such as Years in a Date range) during which a customer requests.

Numerical 26 represents the service entry, that is, the entry obtained by setting an object NE (network element corresponding to a router) when a policy rule entry created from the service entry is set.

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17. RuleState (rule state) 52 represents whether or not the rule has been set to the network element (NE). targetNE (target network element) 53 specifies a network element being a device object to which the rule is applied. One or more attributes
5 26 of the service entry 15 enter the targetNE 53.

The operation of the recording medium according to the present invention will be described below referring to Figs. 1 to 5.

First, when the customer care system accepts a service, the service entry 15 is created based on the service definition
10 entry 18 corresponding to a requested service. The condition parameter group 22, the provisioning Date/Unprovisioning date 25, the Edge router ID(A), and the Edge router ID(B) 26 are created based on the information at the time of service acceptance. Next, the design server of a design system calculates
15 part of the action parameter 23 and writes it into the service entry 15. Thereafter, the status value serviceState possessed by the service entry is set to "planned". Moreover, to create the service rule entry needed by the policy management system, ruleCreationState 24 is set to "Not created" at the time the
20 service entry 15 is newly created or changed.

Next, the policy management system retrieves the service entry 15 for creating a rule, based on the serviceState and ruleCreationState 24, thus implementing the policy rule creation. The policy rule to be created is revealed based on
25 the attribute value, service type 21, of the service entry 15

and the service definition entry 18 corresponding to the service type 21. Target NE 53 can be solved by referring to edge router ID 26 and target 43.

5 In the above-mentioned operation, a change of the service definition can be dealt with by changing the service definition entry only.

10 In the above-mentioned operation, when types of the format of a rule, for example, of the condition parameter 22 are decreased, such a state can be coped with by changing the policy rule format entry only within the directory.

The present invention can be utilized to the DIT construction definition for the directory server, without being restricted to IP-VPN, to reduce the data capacity and to cope with flexibly to changes.

15 As described above, the present invention can provide the following advantages.

20 Policy related data utilized by the policy management system are collected to service entries created by the customer care system. Thus, the data capacity of the policy related data can be saved by referring to the service entry.

Moreover, by using the format entry interpreted as a policy rule, the content of each service entry can be flexibly coped with changes of rules.

25 Moreover, introducing the service definition entry enables flexibly coping with service changes.

The entire disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 11-371061 filed on December 27, 1999 including specification, claims, drawing and summary are incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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